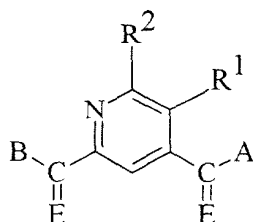


ABSTRACT

Selective MMP-13 inhibitors are pyridine derivatives of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein:

R^1 and R^2 independently are hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, C_1 - C_6 alkyl,

C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, C_2 - C_6 alkenyl, C_2 - C_6 alkynyl, NO_2 , NR^4R^5 , CN, or CF_3 ,

E is independently O or S;

A and B independently are OR^4 or NR^4R^5 ;

R^4 and R^5 independently are H, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_2 - C_6 alkenyl, C_2 - C_6 alkynyl,

$(CH_2)_n$ aryl, $(CH_2)_n$ cycloalkyl, $(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl, or R^4 and R^5 when

taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached complete a

3- to 8-membered ring containing carbon atoms and optionally containing

a heteroatom selected from O, S, or NH, and optionally substituted or

unsubstituted,

n is an integer of from 0 to 6.